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General and complete disarmament: the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene a United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in New York for a period of two weeks between June and July 2006;

(b) Also decide that a session of the preparatory committee for the conference is to be held in New York for a period of two weeks in January 2006, and that, if necessary, a subsequent session might be held;

(c) Further decide to convene in 2005 the second biennial meeting of States as stipulated in the Programme of Action to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action;

(d) Decide to establish an open-ended working group, to meet in three sessions of two weeks each in duration, to negotiate an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons;

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(e) Also decide that the open-ended working group would hold an organizational session in New York on 3 and 4 February 2004 in order to set the dates for its substantive sessions;

(f) Request the Secretary-General to provide the open-ended working group with the assistance and services that might be required for the discharge of its tasks;

(g) Also request the Secretary-General to hold broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, with all Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies and experts in the field, on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, taking into consideration the views of States provided to the Secretary-General, and request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the outcome of his consultations;

(h) Request the Secretary-General to continue to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on the implementation by those States of the Programme of Action, and encourage Member States to submit such reports;

(i) Also request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work

2. The activities referred to above are associated with programme 2, Disarmament, and programme 6, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised by the General Assembly.[1]

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 1 and 2, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would provide the necessary substantive services for the convening of the United Nations conference and its preparatory committee.

4. Pursuant to operative paragraph 3, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would provide the necessary substantive services for the convening of the second biennial meeting of States, as stipulated in the Programme of Action to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 8, 9 and 10, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would serve as the substantive secretariat of the open-ended working group, providing assistance and services, as might be required, for the group to discharge its tasks. It is envisaged that the open-ended working group would hold its first substantive session in 2004 and two subsequent sessions in 2005.

6. Pursuant to operative paragraph 11, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would collect the views of States and would organize and service, in 2004, two informal consultations (each of one day's duration and to be held in New York and

Geneva, respectively) with Member States and relevant civil society organizations as well as a number of regional and subregional meetings, to be organized in collaboration with interested regional and subregional organizations. Furthermore, the Department would prepare the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the broad-based consultations to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

7. Pursuant to operative paragraph 13, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would continue to dedicate staff resources to the receipt, collation and circulation of data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on implementation by those States of the Programme of Action. This would require the continuous maintenance and updating of the computerized database containing the submitted data and information.

8. Pursuant to operative paragraph 14, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would prepare, in 2004, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution.

IV. Modification of the programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005[2]

9. In order to reflect the provisions of the draft resolution, the narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005[2] would be modified to amend the outputs already foreseen in respect of small arms and light weapons issues. Subject to the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, that narrative will be incorporated into the final version of the programme of work of section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

Outputs

Paragraph 4.33 (a)

Under "Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)", add:

"(iv) Second biennial meeting of States to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

"(v) Open-ended working group to negotiate an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely manner, illicit small arms and light weapons."

Under "(i) b. Parliamentary documentation", add:

"Report on the outcome of the broad-based consultations on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons (1);".

Paragraph 4.33 (b)

Under "Other substantive activities (regular budget)", add a new paragraph (viii), reading:

"(viii) Broad-based consultations with all Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies and experts in the field, on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons (RB/XB);"

and renumber current paragraph (viii) as paragraph (ix).

V. Estimates of resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing

10. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the second biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at the national, regional and global levels, referred to in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, are estimated at $270,700. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the organizational session and the three substantive sessions of the open-ended working group referred to in operative paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the draft resolution, are estimated at $1,230,800. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the broad-based consultations related to the request contained in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution are estimated at $20,800. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of $1,522,300 would be required for conference-servicing costs.

B. Non-conference-servicing

11. Current staff resources under section 4 of the proposed programme budget are fully seized with the activities outlined in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. It is also expected that the bulk of the work related to the preparation and organization of the first session of the preparatory committee for the United Nations conference, which is to be held in January 2006, will have to be carried out in 2005. Additionally, the Department for Disarmament Affairs will have to undertake the preparations for and the substantive servicing of the second biennial meeting of States to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action. Further, it is foreseen that negotiations related to the international instrument referred to in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution will be complex and will require considerable substantive support from the Department for Disarmament Affairs. As the group's substantive secretariat, the Department for Disarmament Affairs will be required to prepare, organize and service the group. In particular, the Department will be required to provide expertise in addressing the issues to be negotiated within the group and to prepare the final report and other documentation. Therefore, additional temporary assistance resources equivalent to 18 work-months at the P-3 level and 12 work-months of General Service (Other level) would be required for the Department for Disarmament Affairs, as a consequence of operative paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the draft resolution.

12. With respect to the broad-based consultations referred to in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, it is expected that the related requirements will be funded mainly through extrabudgetary resources.

13. Accordingly, the additional non-conference-servicing requirements are estimated at $371,000, as follows: $254,200 under section 4, Disarmament; $69,700 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services; and $47,100 under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The details of these requirements are as follows:

General temporary assistance	
18 work-months at the P-3 level	189 500
12 work-months of General Service (Other level)	64 700
	254 200
Common service costs	
Requirements in respect of 1 P-3 and 1 GS (Other level)	69 700
Subtotal	**323 900**
Staff assessment	
Section 32, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment	47 100
Total	**371 000**

14. The additional requirements for the implementation of the programme of work outlined in paragraphs 10 and 13 above are estimated at $1,893,300.

C. Other

15. With regard to the conference referred to in operative paragraph 1, to be convened no later than year 2006, as well as its preparatory committee, it is not possible at this point to estimate the related conference-servicing and non-conference-servicing requirements. If the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution and a mandate is given for the convening of such a conference and the subsequent sessions, the necessary resource requirements would have to be reflected in the context of the budget outline and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

VI. Potential for absorption

16. No provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 in relation to the activities that would be requested under operative paragraphs 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 13. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1, additional requirements would arise under sections 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, 4, Disarmament, and 29D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

VII. Contingency fund

17. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities.

18. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 4 foreseen for the biennium 2004-2005 would have to be further reprogrammed and modified beyond the proposals included in the present statement.

VIII. Summary

19. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.1/Rev.1, that decision would give rise to additional requirements for the biennium 2004-2005 under section 2, General Assembly affairs and Conference Services, 4, Disarmament, 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and 32, Staff assessment. No provisions were made under the aforementioned sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 to cover the additional requirements.**

20. **It is not possible at the current stage to identify activities within section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.**

21. **Consequently, an additional provision of $1,893,300 would be required over and above the resources proposed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. That provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriations for the biennium as follows:**

Section 2	General Assembly affairs and conference services	$1 522 300
Section 4	Disarmament	254 200
Section 29 D	Office of Central Support Services	69 700
Section 32	Staff assessment (to be offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment)	47 100
Total		**$1 893 300**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/57/6/Rev.1).

[2] A/58/6 (sect. 4).

Annex

Estimates for the sessions of the second biennial meeting of States and the Open-ended Working Group, to be convened in 2004 and 2005[a]

	...ond biennial ...eting of States (2005)	*Open-ended working group*	*Informal consultations*	*Total estimates*
(a) Conference-servicing costs				
Meeting servicing	68 900.0	437 700.0	11 100.0	517 700
Pre-session documentation	56 800.0	255 400.0	-	312 200
In-session documentation	67 900.0	406 700.0	-	474 600
Post-session documentation	69 500.0	82 900.0	8 700.0	161 100
Other conference services	7 600.0	48 100.0	1 000.0	56 700
Subtotal (a)	**270 700.0**	**1 230 800.0**	**20 800.0**	**1 522 300**
(b) Non-conference-servicing costs				
18 work-months of general temporary assistance at the P-3 level[b]	189 500			189 500
12 work-months of general temporary assistance at the GS (OL)[b] level	64 700			64 700
Common service costs in respect of 1 P-3 and 1 GS (OL) of general temporary assistance	69 700			69 700
Subtotal (b)	**323 900**			**323 900**
Total net				**1 846 200**
(c) Staff assessment		47 100		47 100
Grand total (gross)				**1 893 300**

[a] All figures are rounded to the nearest $100.

[b] The incumbent of the post will undertake, primarily, work related to the organization and substantive servicing of the second biennial meeting of States and the open-ended working group. In addition, the incumbent may also be required, supplementarily, to undertake work related to the consultations on brokering and the preparations for the first session of the preparatory committee for the Review Conference.